



FANTASY-FILLED FIRST ISSUE!

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75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 30p
JAN. 85



AMETHYST

PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD



THE NEW



**THERE'S NO
STOPPING
US NOW.**

SUDDENLY THERE IS MAGIC--AND A CHILD'S DREAMS
BECOME REALITY! FOR ON THE MYSTIC GEMWORLD, AMY
WINSTON LEADS ANOTHER LIFE-- THE LIFE OF...

AMETHYSTTM

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD


IT'S LIKE AN ALIEN
WORLD IN HERE! EVERYTHING
IS SHIFTING AND SWIRLING
SO MUCH THAT MY MAGIC
BLASTS CAN BARELY CUT
THROUGH...

...AND I'M AFRAID
I MIGHT NEVER
FIND THE WAY
TO THE GEMWORLD
AGAIN!

THE
LONG
WAY
HOME

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WHA! THE
LAST BOLT IS
BOUNCING RIGHT
BACK AT ME!

I GUESS I'D BETTER
CALL IT QUILTS FOR NOW
AND--

OHGOSH! I WAS
SEARCHING SO HARD FOR
THE GEMWORLD PORTAL
THAT I'VE LOST SIGHT OF
THE ONE BACK TO EARTH!

I MUST REALLY BE
OUT OF PRACTICE WITH
MY POWERS! I FEEL
ALMOST AS HELPLESS--

--AS WHEN
I FIRST ARRIVED
AT CASTLE
AMETHYST!

I'VE GOT TO KEEP CALM,
THOUGH...REMEMBER WHO
I AM AND WHAT I CAN DO!

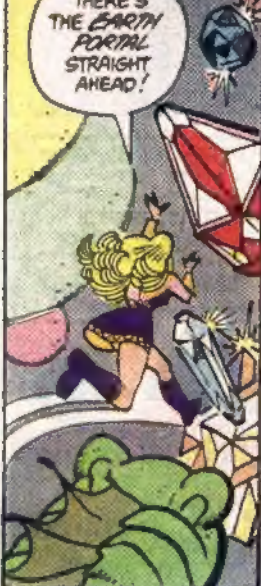
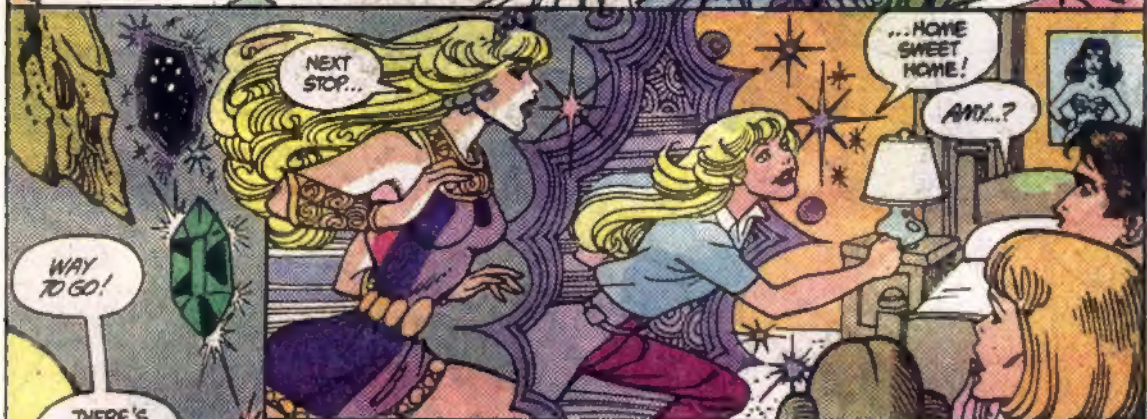
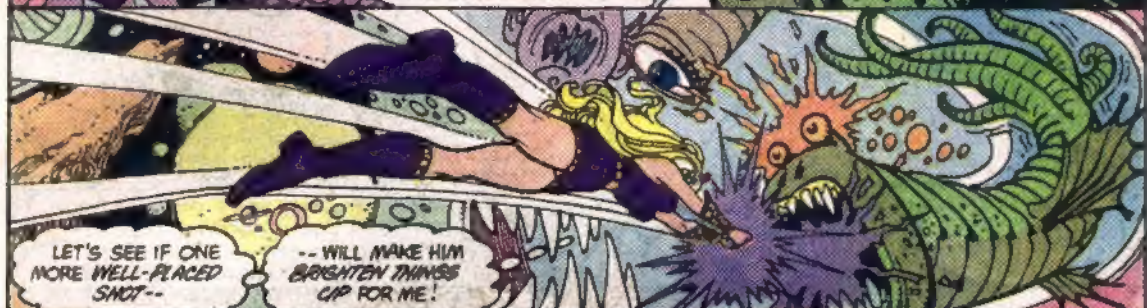
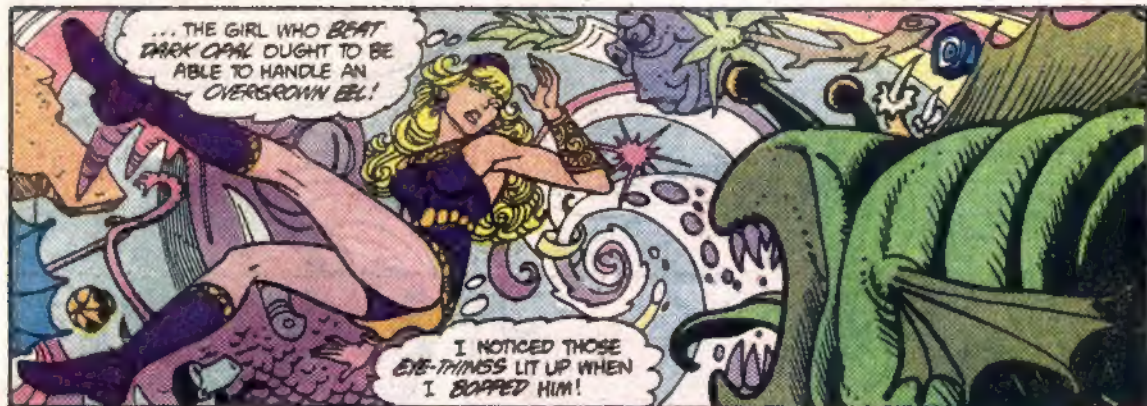
I'LL BE OKAY
AS LONG AS I--

YIKES!

GO GET
BREAKFAST
SOMEWHERE
ELSE, BUSTER!

THAT ONLY
MADE HIM
ANGRY! BUT I
MUSTN'T
PANIC!

EVEN IF I'M NOT
USED TO BEING
AMETHYST
AFTER ALL THIS
TIME...



I THINK I WAS SPOOKED
MORE THAN ANYTHING
ELSE-- BUT THERE WASN'T
ANY *WARR* DONE!

THE *REAL* PROBLEM
IS THAT THE PATHWAY
TO THE GEMWORLD
IS AS *GUMMED*
UP AS WHEN WE
LEFT IT!

NOT THAT THAT'S SO BAD FOR
ME: AFTER FACING DARK
OPAL, CARNELIAN, AND
SARDONYX--

--AND FREEING
THE GEMWORLD
FROM THEIR
EVIL--

--I'M ABOUT READY TO STICK
WITH EARTH FOR GOOD!

BUT YOU'RE REALLY STUCK HERE,
EMERALD! YOU CAN'T GO HOME--
AND ALL BECAUSE I DRAGGED YOU
ALONG TO HELP ME!

I OFFERED
TO ASSIST YOU,
AMETHYST...

BUT YOU ALL HAVE BEEN SO WONDERFUL
TO ME THAT I DON'T MIND THE EARTH--IN FACT,
I'M HAPPIER THAN I'VE BEEN IN YEARS!

POOR EMMY-- IT'S NO
WONDER THAT SHE FEELS
SAFE HERE...

... WHEN HER MOTHER
AND OLDEST SISTER WERE
MURDERED ON THE
GEMWORLD!

WELL, IF YOU'RE HAPPY, EMMY,
THEN I'M HAPPY TOO--

--THOUGH I STILL WISH I
COULD CLEAR THE PATH BACK
TO THE GEMWORLD! AFTER
ALL, I MADE A PROMISE...

...AND IT WAS
THIS RASCALLY
KITTEN THAT
TRAPPED ME IN
YOUR REALM! #

IN THE AMETHYST
ANNUAL--KB.

...THAT I'D RETURN IF I WAS
EVER NEEDED THERE AGAIN!

'TIS A BLACK DAY,
I TELLS YE, A
BLACK DAY INDEED...

...WHEN WE BE TRANSPORTIN' SOME
OUTCAST NOBLE 'CROSS THE SEA!

AYE, THEM NOBILITIES IS AN
EVIL LOT--AND FOR ALL
HIS AIRS, THIS ONE'S NO
BETTER!

KEEP YER MIND ON YER WORK, VENARG!
AND YOUR HANDS TOO--OR IT'S THE
WHIP FER BOTH OF YE'S!

I'LL FLOG 'EM NOW,
IF YER LORDSHIP
PLEASES!

NOT WITH MY SISTER
RULING TOPAZ KEEP...

...AND DENYING ME EVEN
A SINGLE VESSEL OF THE
FLEET!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY,
CAPTAIN! AND YOU
NEEDN'T CALL ME
"LORDSHIP"...

...FOR I AM
NO LORD!

BUT THESE MANGY
FREEBOOTERS HAVE
DONE WELL ENOUGH--

--AND DELIVERED ME TO
THE ISLANDS OF
AQUAMARINE!

BUT THEN--

BY THE
DEMONS OF
THE PIT!
HARD
ABOUT,
YE RATS!

TAKE US
AWAY
FROM
HERE!

WHAT--?

WE WON'T BE
DROPPIN' ANCHOR
HERE, YER LORDLINESS--
NOT WITH SUCH AN ALL
OVEN BEFORE US!

BUT IT WAS FOR
THIS VERY REASON THAT
I HIRED YOU, OLD
PIRATE!

AMETHYST IS ON THAT ISLAND--
AND IN TERRIBLE DANGER!

AND WHAT'S IT TO
ME, YE BLASTED POP?

ONE NOBLE MORE OR LESS
MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE
TO THE LIKES OF US!

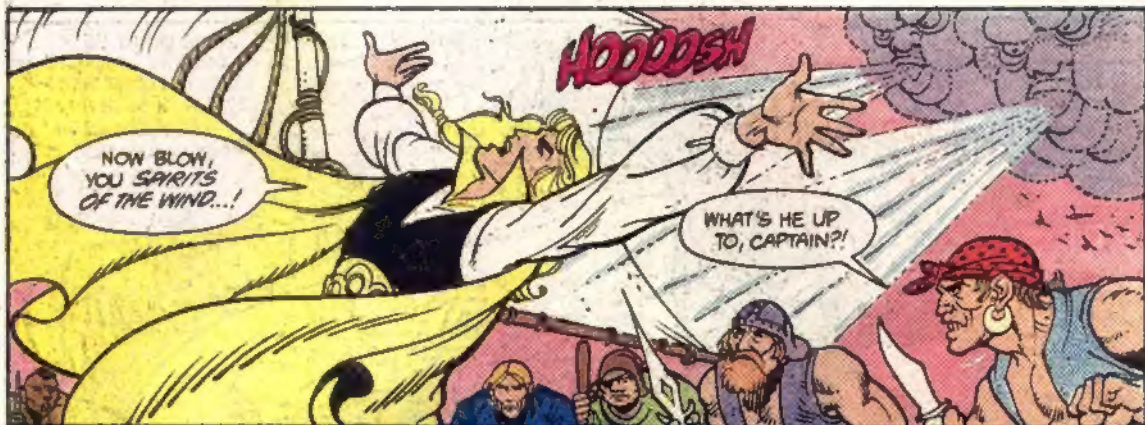
DO YOU SAY THAT MY
LIFE MEANS NOTHING TO
YOU EITHER?

THEN HERE IS MY
REPLY, YOU
MURDEROUS
FOOLS!

YAAAH!

AND TO THINK
THAT WHEN MY
BELOVED AMETHYST
RESCUED US FROM
OPAL'S REIGN--

-- SHE ALSO
SAVED SUCH
WORTHLESS
SOUL AS
YOU!



IT IS *PRINCE RARAZ*, IS IT NOT?
IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD
AQUAMARINE, WE
WELCOME YOU!

IT'S A MOST WELCOME
WELCOME...MY THANKS.

BUT TELL ME WHAT YOU
KNOW OF *AMETHYST'S*
FLIGHT UPON THE
MOUNTAIN!

PRINCESS AMETHYST?
I DO NOT KNOW WHEREOF
YOU SPEAK!

BUT IT WAS SAID TO ME THAT SHE WAS
HERE! AND WHEN THE MOUNTAIN TOP
FLARED...

AGAIN YOU HAVE THE BETTER OF
ME, MY PRINCE... THE *FIREPEAK*
HAS BEEN SILENT FOR YEARS!

STAND CLEAR,
YOUR *URCHINS*!
OUT OF OUR
WAY!

BUT THE MOUNTAIN SPEWED
OUT DEMONS THAT FILLED
THE SKY! SURELY YOU
SAW...

BUT NO---ALL SIGNS
OF THAT GREAT EVIL
HAVE FLED!

AND SOON...

AQUAMARINE'S GUARDS
INSISTED THEY KNOW NOTHING--
THAT ALL IS WELL! YET I READ
FEAR UPON THE FACES OF
THE COMMON FOLK!

IF ONLY THE *SEALORD*
HIMSELF WERE NOT OFF
WITH THE OTHER NOBLES
AT THE *DIAMOND*
TEMPLE...

HE MIGHT
HAVE AN
ANSWER!

BUT I KNOW THAT *AMETHYST*
HAS ALREADY RETURNED TO THE
GEMWORLD *ONCE* WITHOUT
SEEKING ME OUT...

...AND IF, AS I WAS
TOLD, SHE'S COME HERE
FOR SOME SECRET PURPOSE,
I WILL FIND HER AND RENEW
MY *HOW OF LOVE*!

THIS CAVE WOULD
SEEM A LIKELY--

YES! THAT TORCH
CONFIRMS IT! SOMEONE
HAS TAKEN UP RESIDENCE
HERE!

AMETHYST! WHY
DID YOU NOT TELL
ME YOU'D RETURNED,
MY LOVE?

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING IN THIS
PLACE?

WHY, IT SHOULD
BE OBVIOUS,
"MY LOVE"...

I HAVE COME
TO DESTROY
YOUR WORLD!
HA HA HA HA

YOU--YOU'RE
NOT AMETHYST!

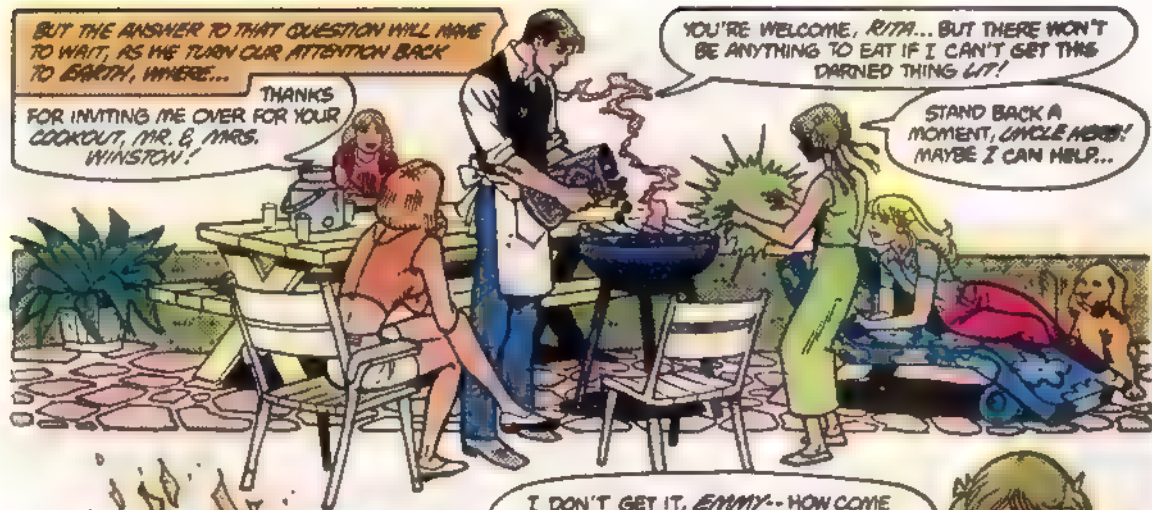
WHO
ARE YOU?!

BUT THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION WILL HAVE TO WAIT, AS WE TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO EARTH, WHERE...

THANKS FOR INVITING ME OVER FOR YOUR COOKOUT, MR. & MRS. WINSTON!

YOU'RE WELCOME, RITA... BUT THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING TO EAT IF I CAN'T GET THIS DAMNED THING LIT!

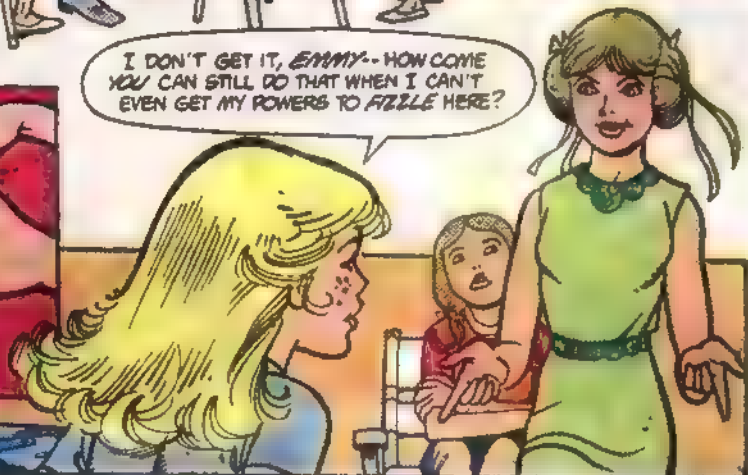
STAND BACK A MOMENT, UNCLE ARNOLD! MAYBE I CAN HELP...



I DON'T GET IT, EMMY-- HOW COME YOU CAN STILL DO THAT WHEN I CAN'T EVEN GET MY POWERS TO FIZZLE HERE?

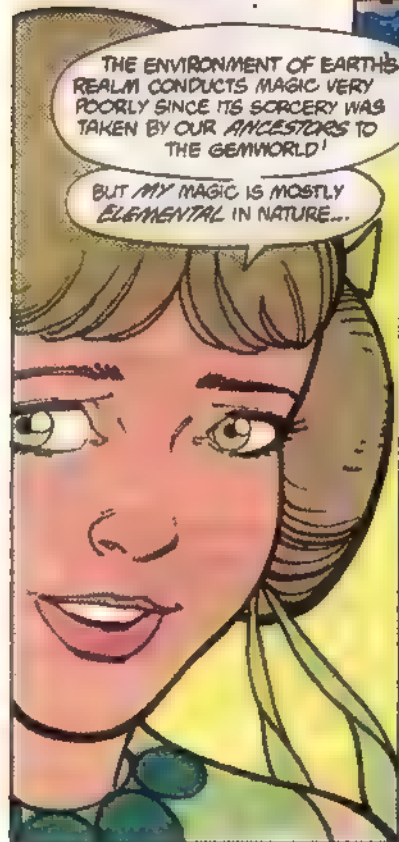


THERE!



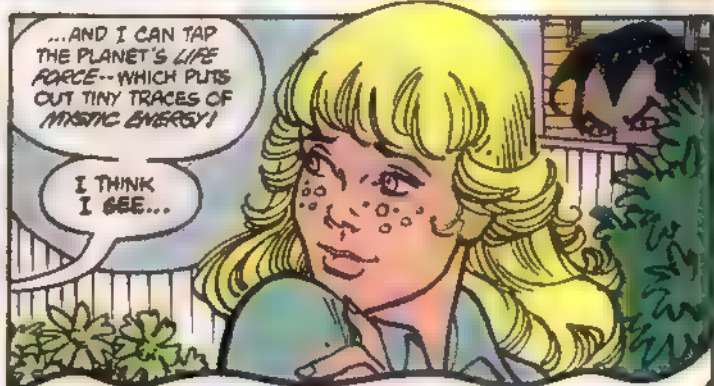
THE ENVIRONMENT OF EARTH'S REALM CONDUCTS MAGIC VERY POORLY SINCE ITS SORCERY WAS TAKEN BY OUR ANCESTORS TO THE GENWORLD!

BUT MY MAGIC IS MOSTLY ELEMENTAL IN NATURE...



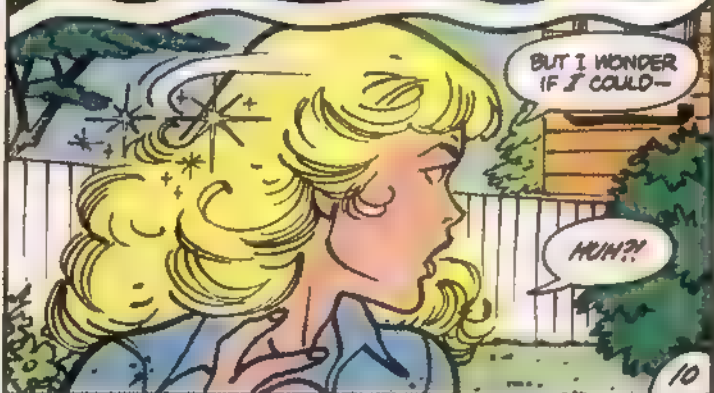
...AND I CAN TAP THE PLANET'S LIFE FORCE-- WHICH PUTS OUT TINY TRACES OF MYSTIC ENERGY!

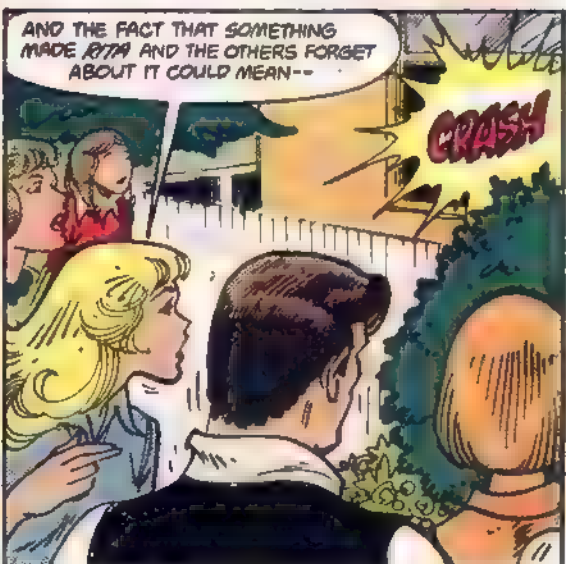
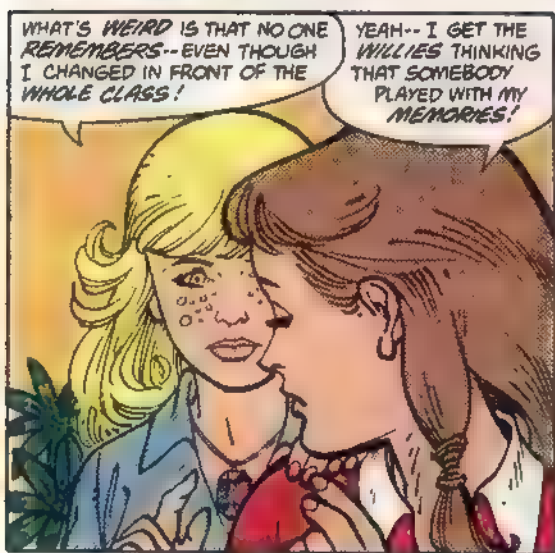
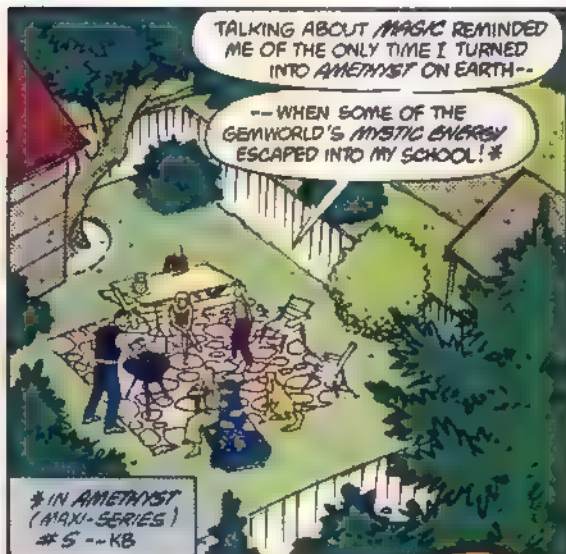
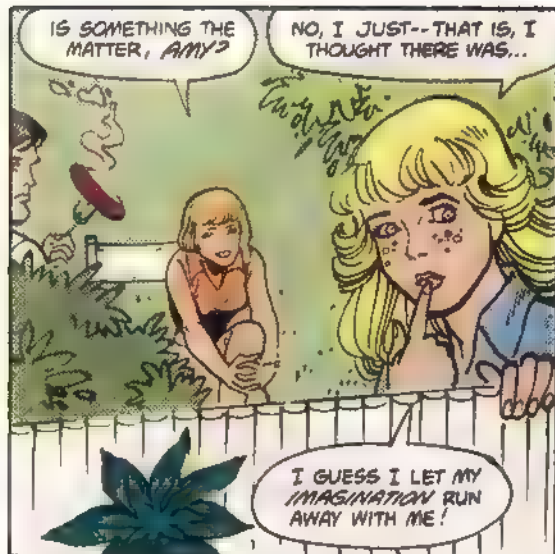
I THINK I SEE...

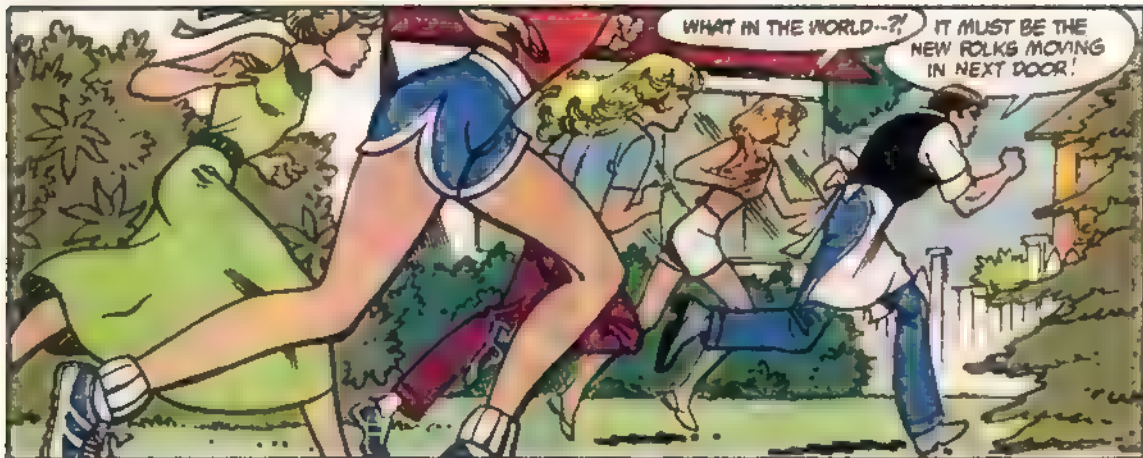


BUT I WONDER IF I COULD--

HUH?!

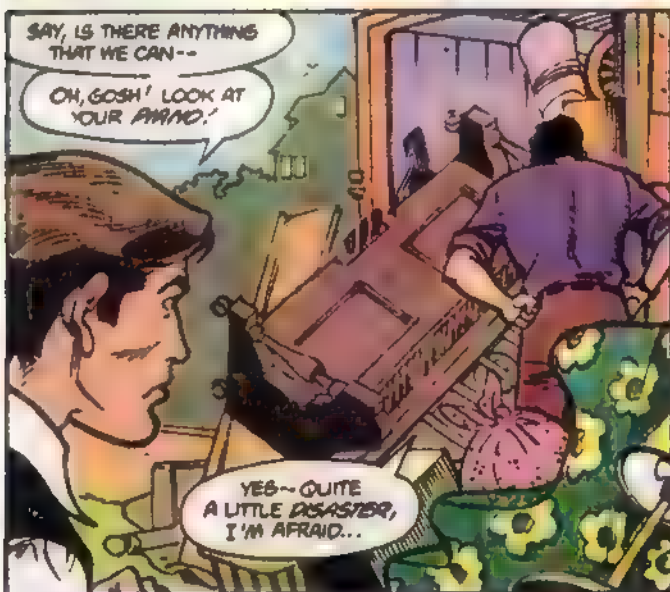






WHAT IN THE WORLD--?!

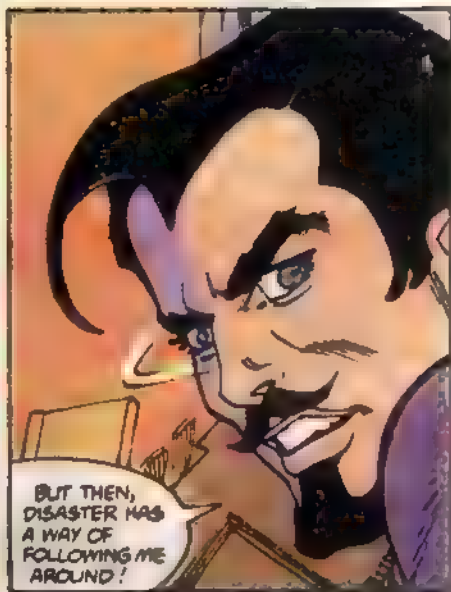
IT MUST BE THE
NEW FOLKS MOVING
IN NEXT DOOR!



SAY, IS THERE ANYTHING
THAT WE CAN--

OH, GOSH! LOOK AT
YOUR ARMED!

YES-- QUITE
A LITTLE DISASTER,
I'M AFRAID...



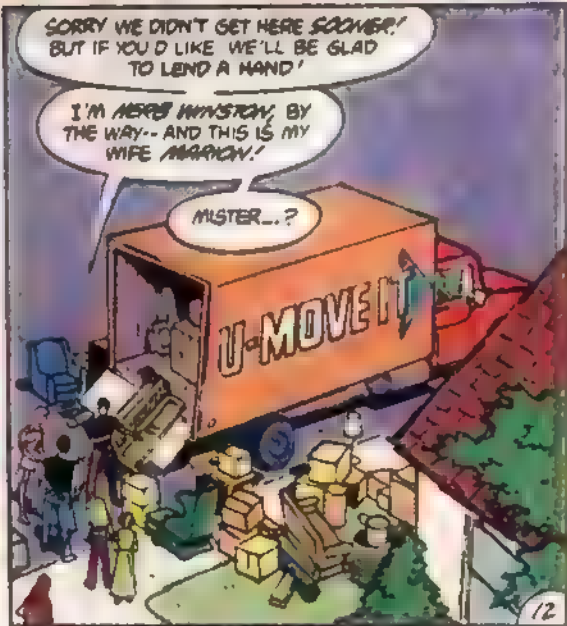
BUT THEN,
DISASTER HAS
A WAY OF
FOLLOWING ME
AROUND!



DARK
OPAL?

NO, IT
COULDN'T
BE...

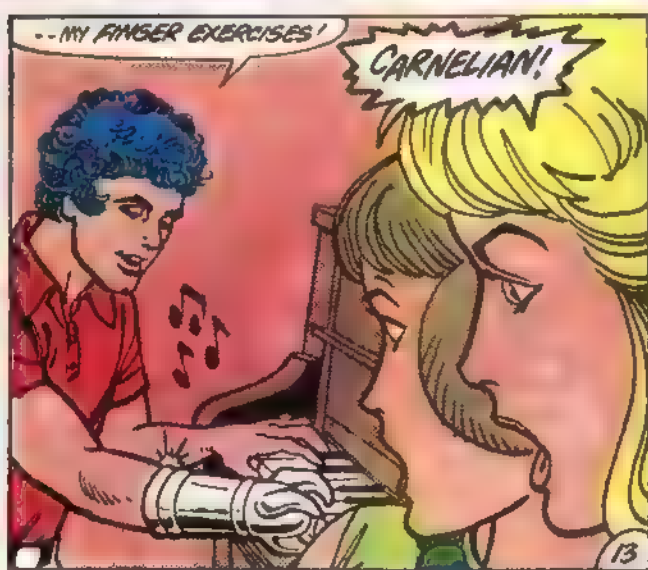
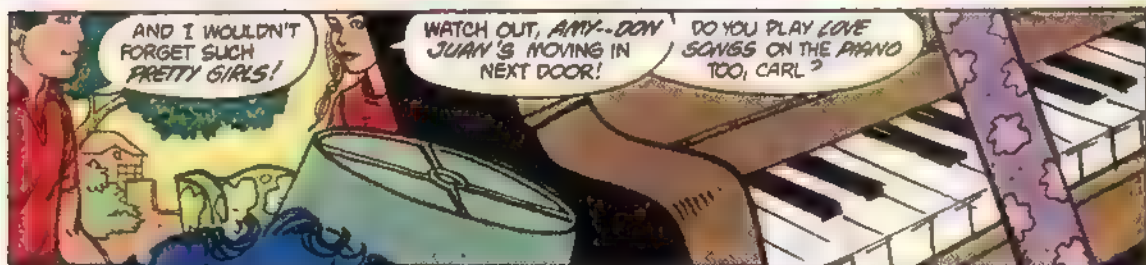
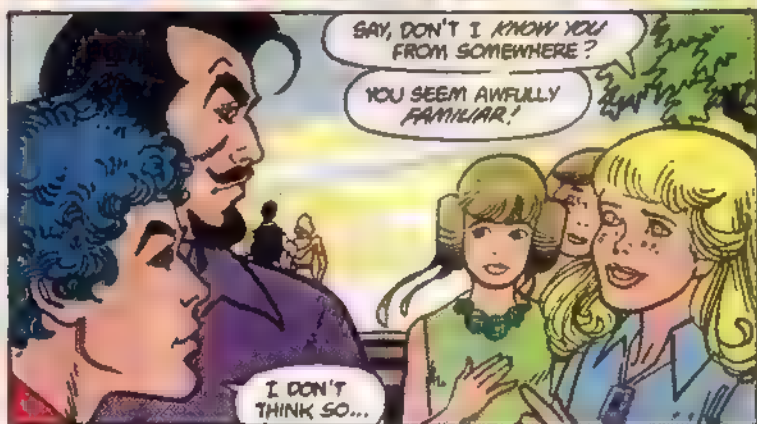
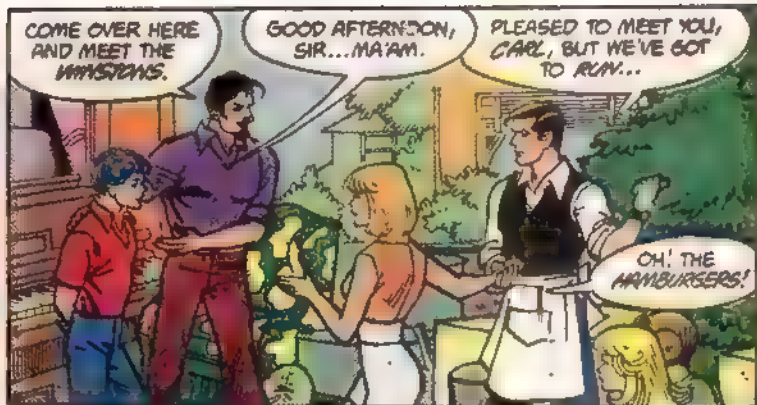
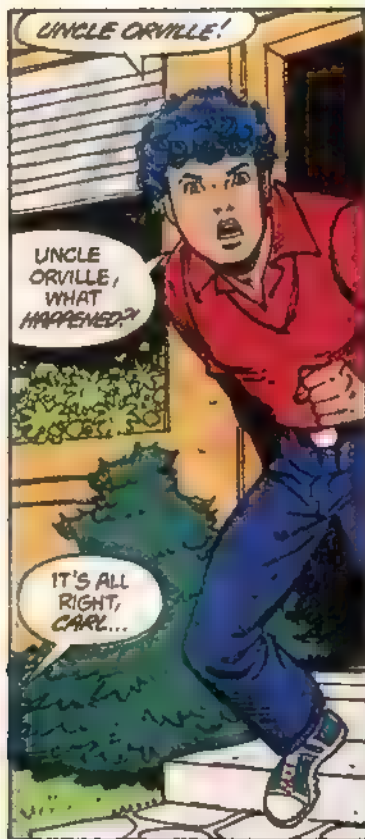
IT MUST
BE SOME
SORT OF
CON-
CURRENCE!

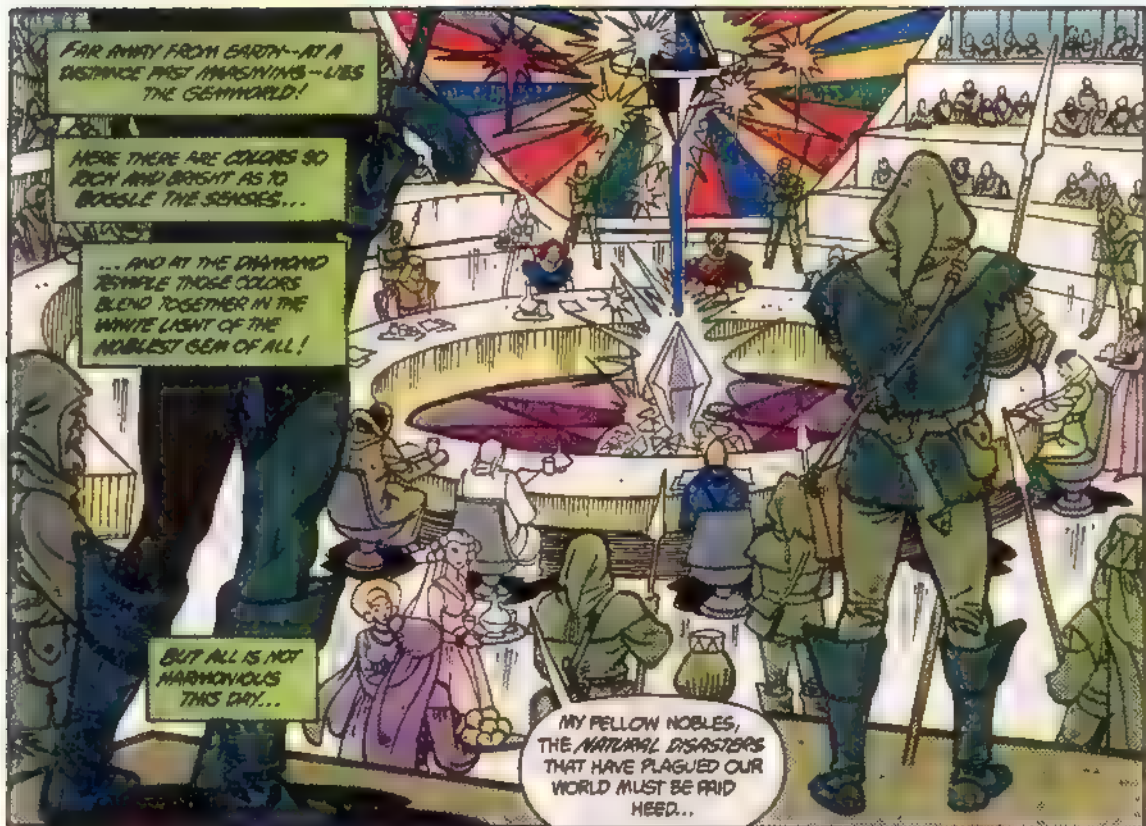


SORRY WE DIDN'T GET HERE SOONER,
BUT IF YOU'D LIKE WE'LL BE GLAD
TO LEND A HAND!

I'M HERE WINSTON, BY
THE WAY-- AND THIS IS MY
WIFE MARION!

MISTER...?





FAR AWAY FROM EARTH--AT A
DISTANCE FIRST MARSHING--LIES
THE GEMWORLD!

HERE THERE ARE COLORS SO
RICH AND BRIGHT AS TO
BEGGLE THE SENSES...

...AND AT THE DIAMOND
TEMPLE THOSE COLORS
BLEND TOGETHER IN THE
WHITE LIGHT OF THE
NOBLEST GEM OF ALL!

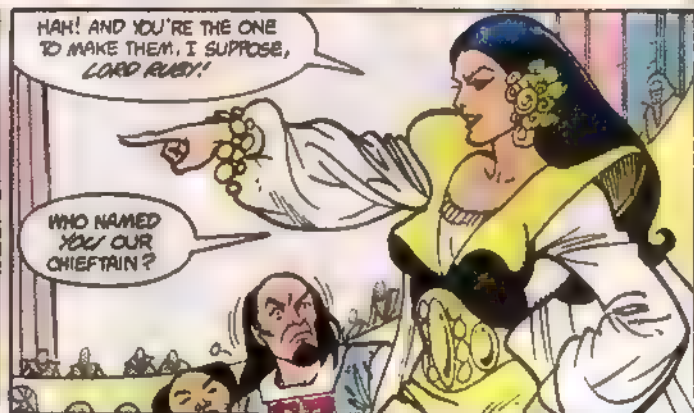
BUT ALL IS NOT
HARMONIOUS
THIS DAY...

MY FELLOW NOBLES,
THE NATURAL DISASTERS
THAT HAVE PLAGUED OUR
WORLD MUST BE AID
NEED...



THE TIME FOR
ARGUMENTS IS PAST,
MY FRIENDS!

DECISIONS
MUST BE
MADE!



HAH! AND YOU'RE THE ONE
TO MAKE THEM, I SUPPOSE,
LORD RUBY!

WHO NAMED
YOU OUR
CHIEFTAIN?



LADY RUBY--! YOU
HAD BETTER TREAT
YOUR ELDERS WITH
RESPECT!

HEAR!
HEAR!



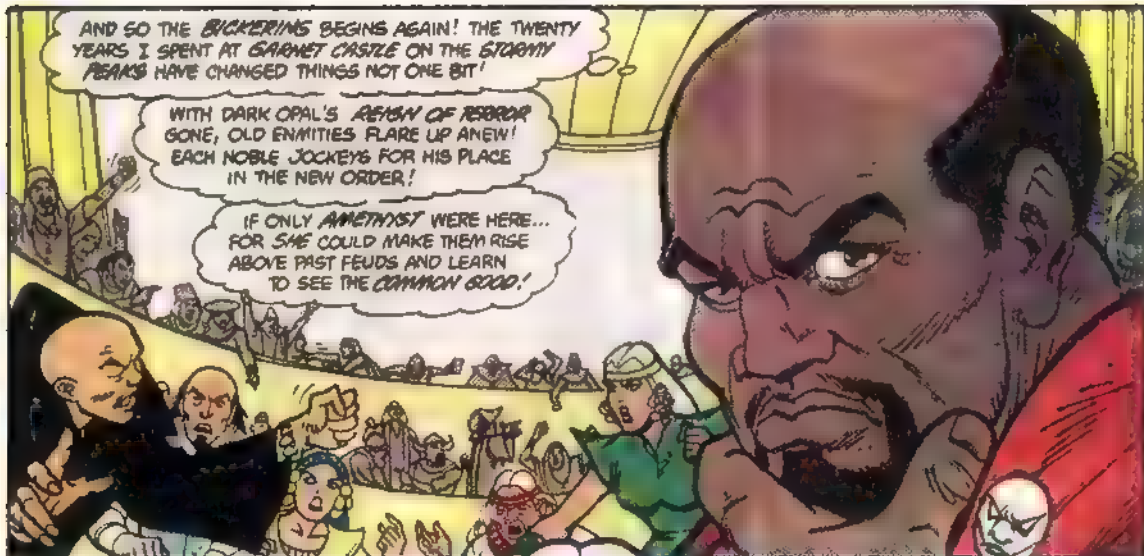
OH, BY ALL MEANS LET US
FIGHT ABOUT THE RIGHTS
OF YOUNG AND OLD AGAIN!

WILL THESE
SCUMBLES NEVER
CEASE?



THESE GOOD LORDS
SPEAK TRUE... TRUSTED
LEADERSHIP IS
CALLED FOR NOW!

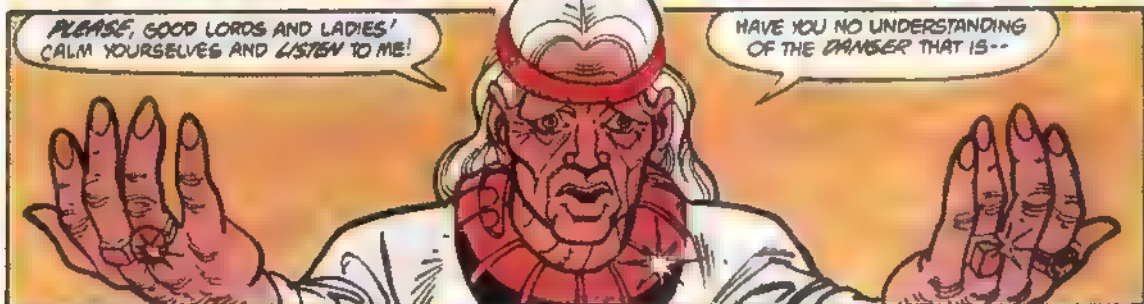
SO LEAD
YOUR PEASANTS,
AQUAMARINE!



AND SO THE BICKERING BEGINS AGAIN! THE TWENTY YEARS I SPENT AT GARNET CASTLE ON THE STORMY PEAKS HAVE CHANGED THINGS NOT ONE BIT!

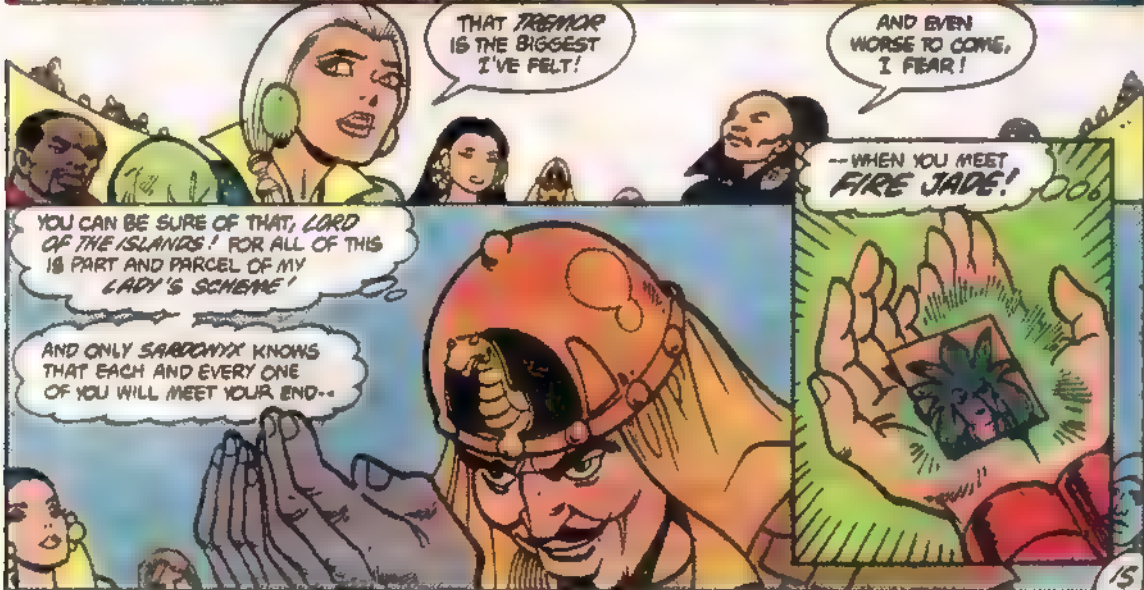
WITH DARK OPAL'S REIGN OF TERROR GONE, OLD ENMITIES FLARE UP ANEW! EACH NOBLE JOCKEYS FOR HIS PLACE IN THE NEW ORDER!

IF ONLY AMETHYST WERE HERE... FOR SHE COULD MAKE THEM RISE ABOVE PAST FEUDS AND LEARN TO SEE THE COMMON GOOD!



PLEASE, GOOD LORDS AND LADIES! CALM YOURSELVES AND LISTEN TO ME!

HAVE YOU NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE DANGER THAT IS--



THAT TREMOR IS THE BIGGEST I'VE FELT!

AND EVEN WORSE TO COME, I FEAR!

YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT, LORD OF THE ISLANDS! FOR ALL OF THIS IS PART AND PARCEL OF MY LADY'S SCHEME!

AND ONLY SARDONYX KNOWS THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL MEET YOUR END--

--WHEN YOU MEET FIRE JADE!

SARDONYX SENDS ME THE
SURVEILLANCE I HAVE CALLED
FOR. HE'S, AS EVER, THE
FAITHFUL SERVANT.

NOR CAN YOU, PRINCE DARI,
KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT
WHICH I WISH YOU TO!

BUT EVEN HE
DOES NOT GRASP THE
FULL MEANINGS
OF MY PLANS!

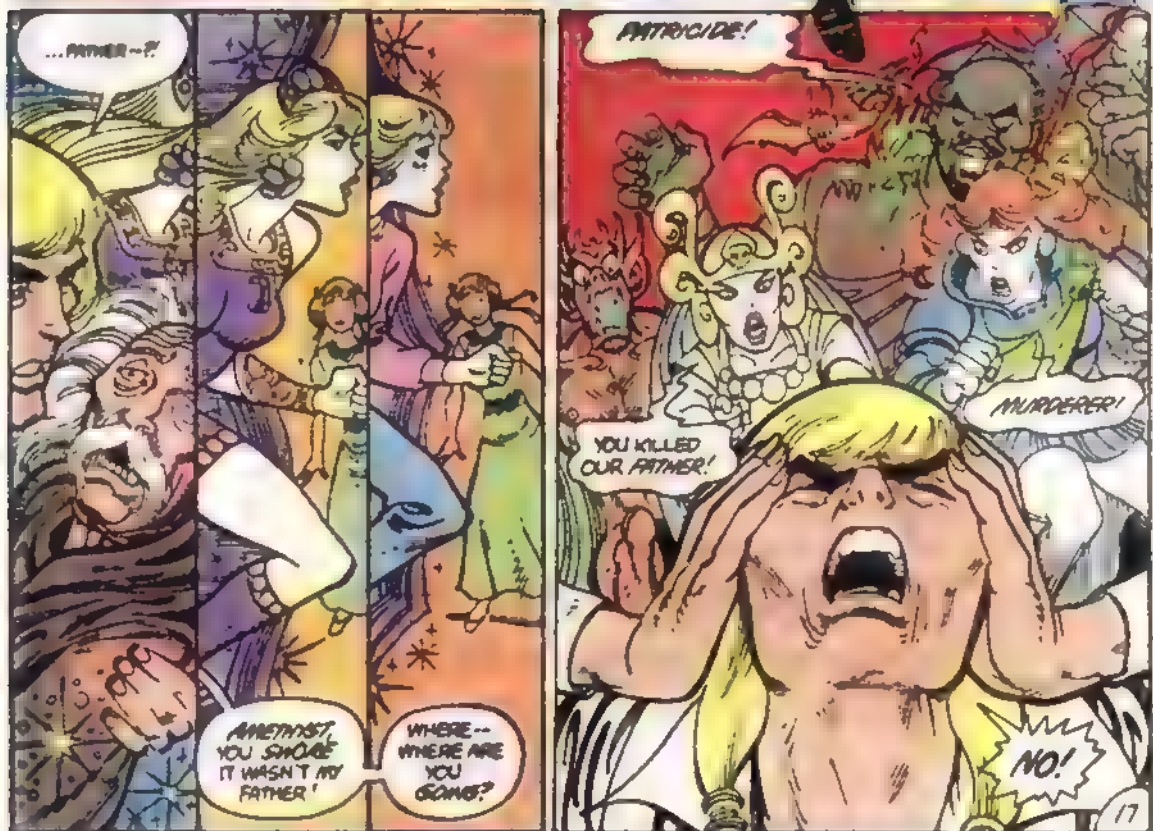
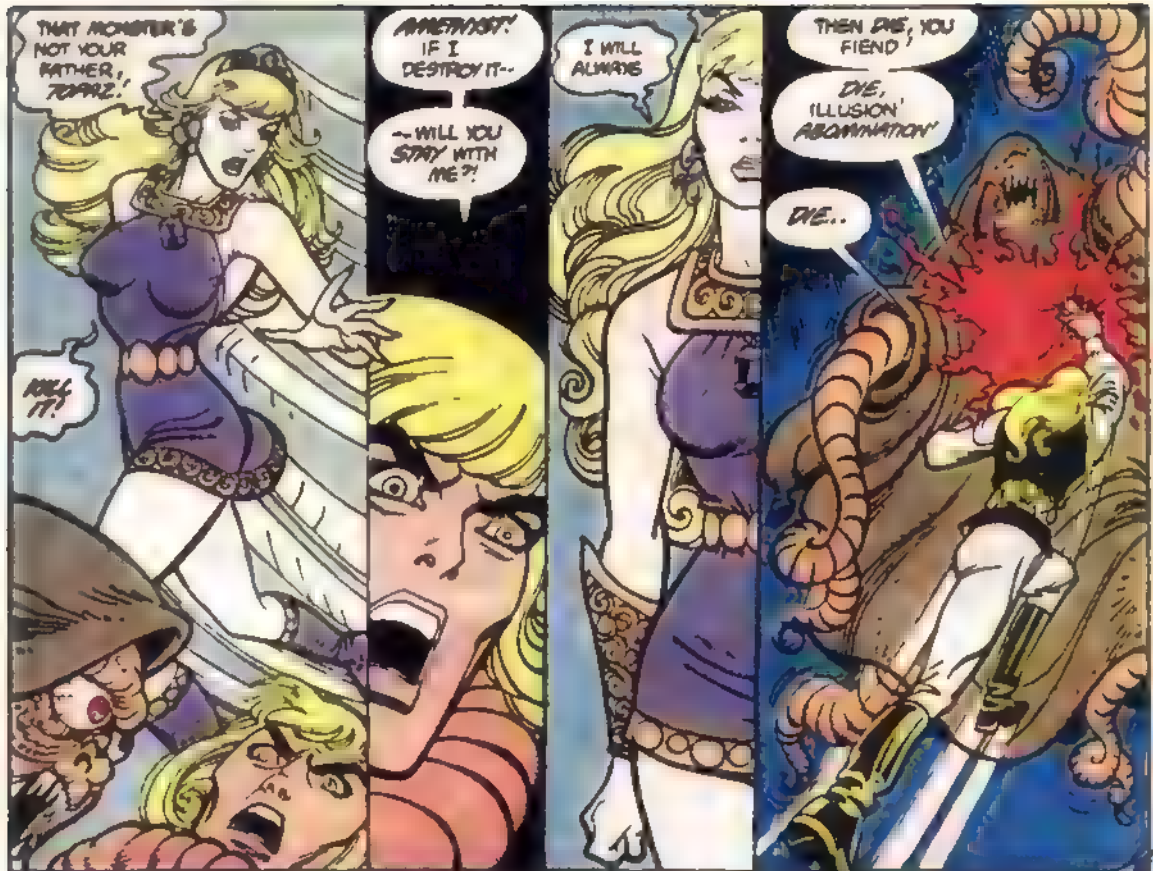
UNNN-
URRN-

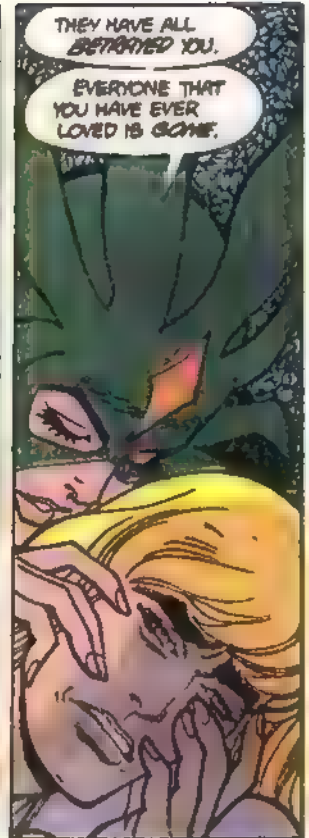
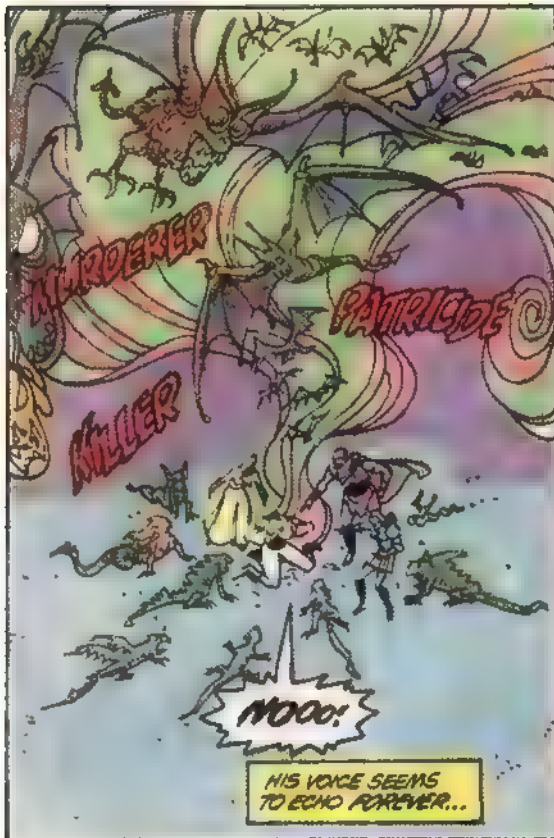
I HAVE OPENED YOUR
MIND, MY LOVE, TO
MEMORIES MOST
SHATTERING...

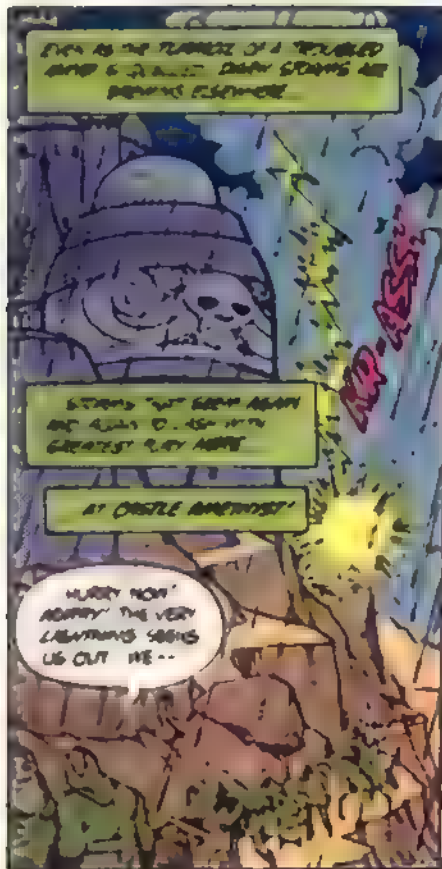
... TO THE HORROR THAT
TURNED YOU FROM A
BOY INTO A MAN. A

NO, FATHER!
DON'T MAKE ME
KILL YOU!

"BUT THERE'LL BE NO
HAPPY END IN THIS
RETELLING!"





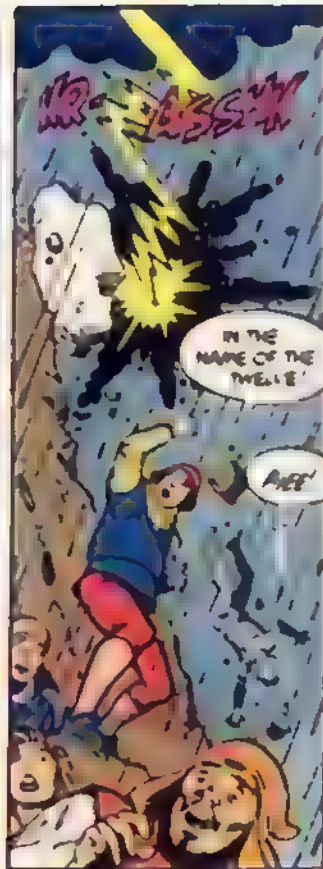


EVEN AS THE FUROR OF A THUNDER
AND A BRIGHT DOWN STORMS ARE
BURNING FULMINE

STORMS THAT SCREAM AGAIN
AND AGAIN TO US WITH
GREATEST RAY MORE

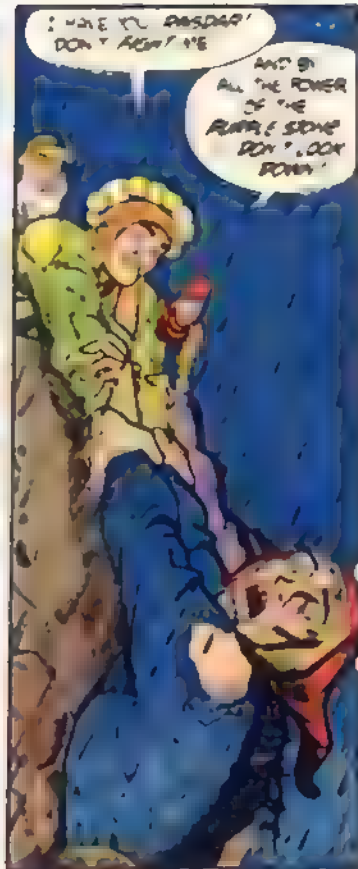
AT CASTLE AMBISTIST

HURRY NOW!
HURRY! THE VERY
LIGHTNING SEEMS
US OUT HERE--



IN THE
NAME OF THE
TWELVE

AIEE!



I HAVE YOU DADDY!
DON'T AGENT ME

AND BY
ALL THE POWER
OF THE
RAIN & SONG
DON'T... OOK
DOWN!



AND WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS

I CAN FEEL THE FIRE IN THE AIR!
WHAT MANNER OF STORM IS THIS?

WHAT FATE
DOES IT
PORTEND
FOR--



UNNN--

WITCH-
MOTHER!
CRYSTAL,
ARE YOU



NO SHE BUT
THUNDER'S IN HER
FEVER DREAMS.

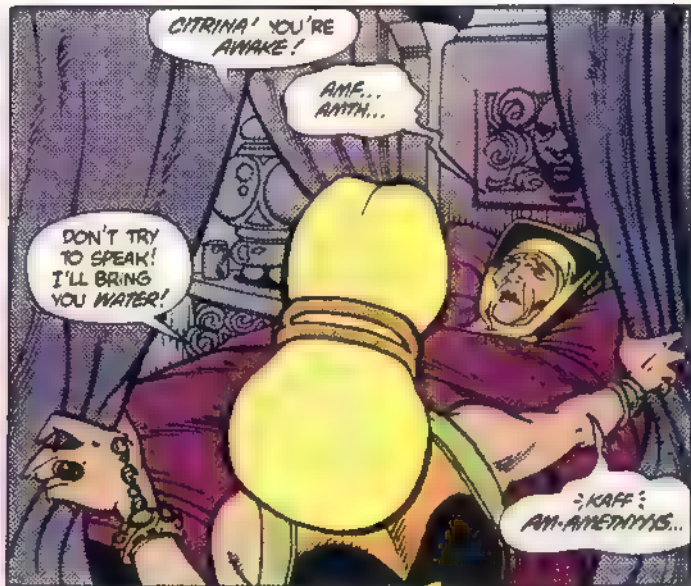
THEY'RE ALWAYS
HERE WHEN THE
STORMS COME-- AS
THOUGH THE RAINS
ARE MEANT TO Dampen
HER SPIRIT ALONE

BUT THE SILENCE OF THE
ROBERT OF THE HOUSE
OF AMBISTIST--



--DOES NOT SO EASILY SUBMIT!

ASK
:KAFF:
AMF...



CITRINA! YOU'RE
AWAKE!

AMF...
AMTH...

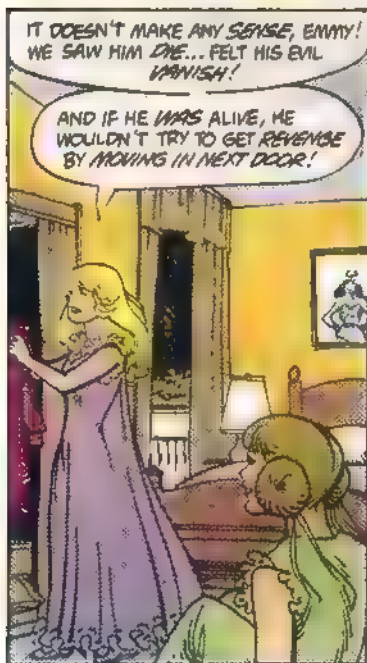
DON'T TRY
TO SPEAK!
I'LL BRING
YOU WATER!

:KAFF:
AM-AMETHYIS...



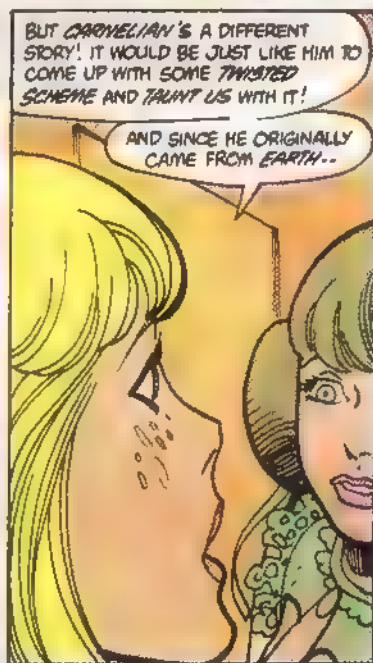
AMY?

DO YOU BELIEVE
THERE'S ANY CHANCE
THAT MAN COULD
REALLY BE DARK
OPAL?



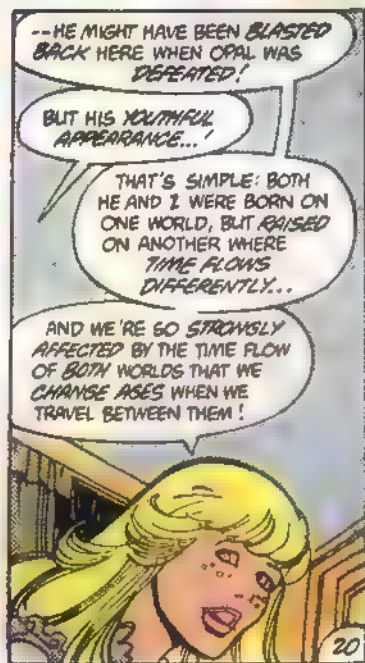
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, ENNY!
WE SAW HIM DIE... FELT HIS EVIL
VANISH!

AND IF HE WAS ALIVE, HE
WOULDN'T TRY TO GET REVENGE
BY MOVING IN NEXT DOOR!



BUT CARMELIAN'S A DIFFERENT
STORY! IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE HIM TO
COME UP WITH SOME THWISTED
SCHEME AND TAUNT US WITH IT!

AND SINCE HE ORIGINALLY
CAME FROM EARTH...

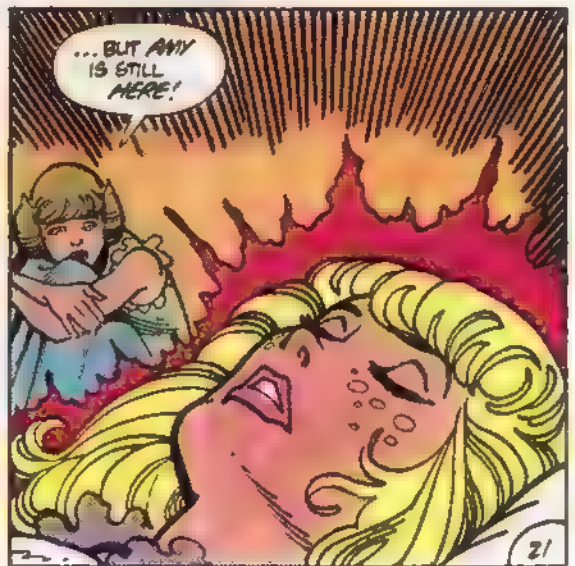
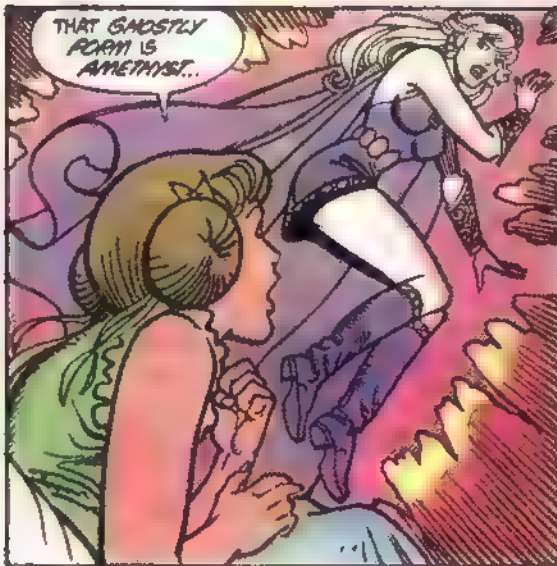
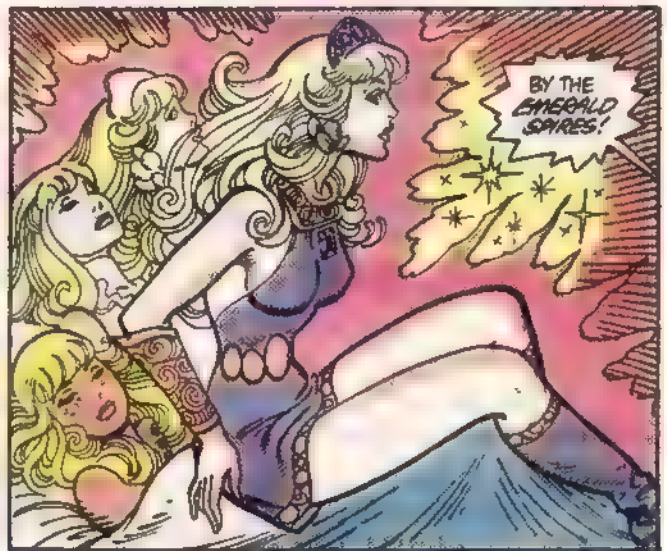
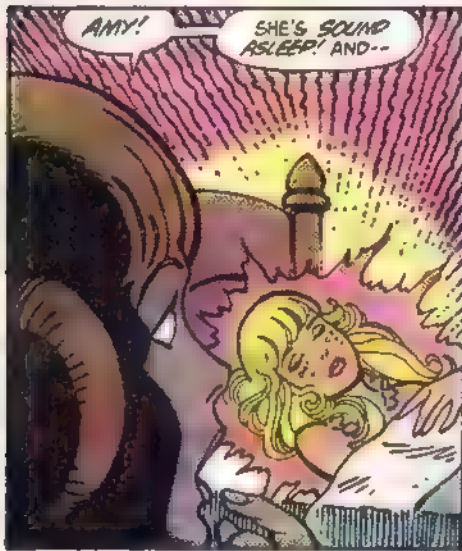
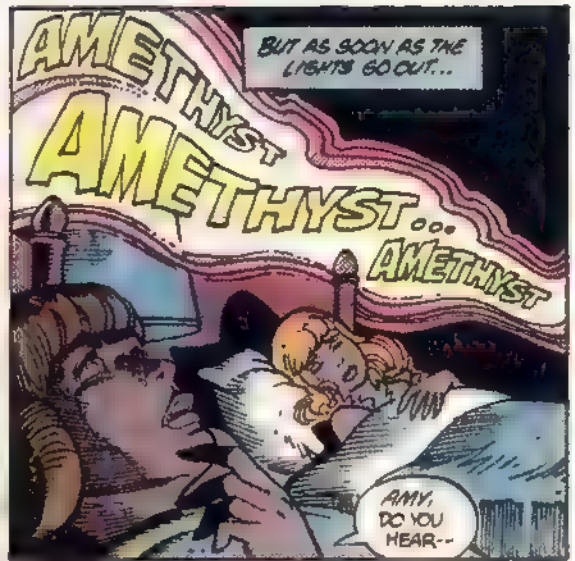


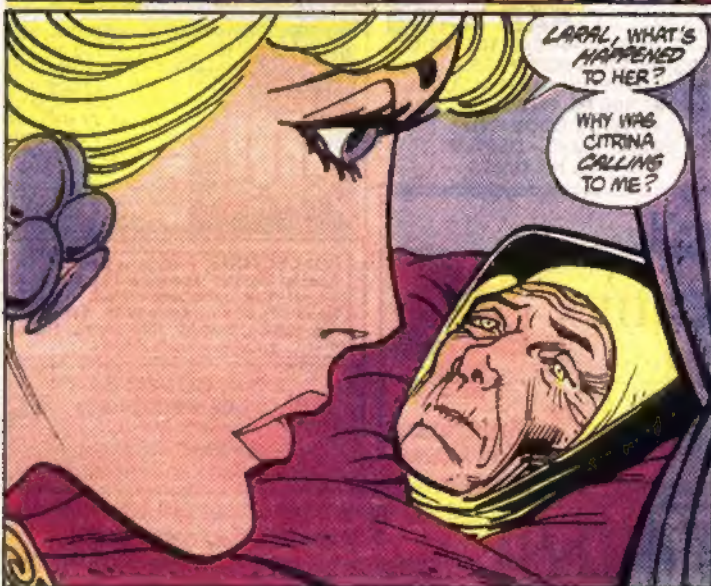
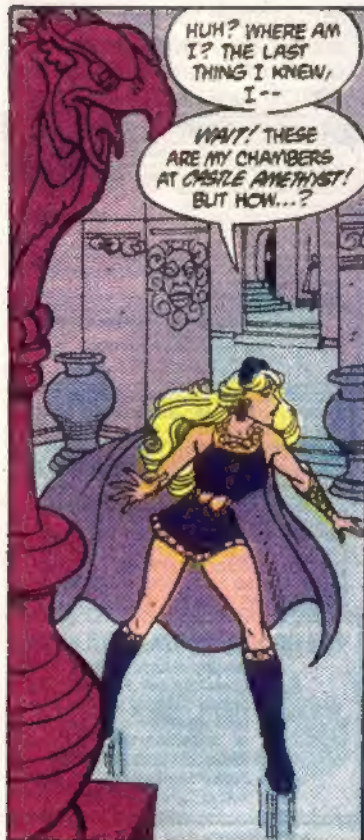
--HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BLASTED
BACK HERE WHEN OPAL WAS
DEFEATED!

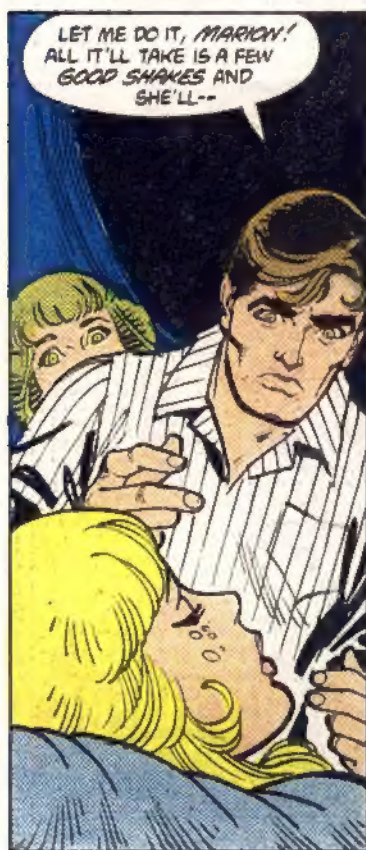
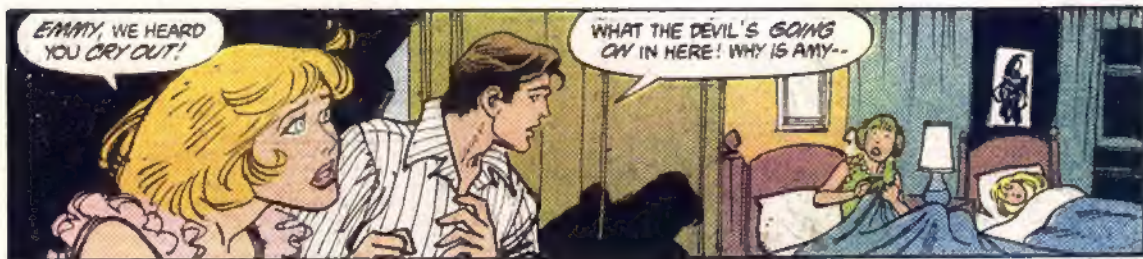
BUT HIS YOUTHFUL
APPEARANCE...

THAT'S SIMPLE: BOTH
HE AND I WERE BORN ON
ONE WORLD, BUT RAISED
ON ANOTHER WHERE
TIME FLOWS
DIFFERENTLY...

AND WE'RE SO STRONGLY
AFFECTED BY THE TIME FLOW
OF BOTH WORLDS THAT WE
CHANGE AGES WHEN WE
TRAVEL BETWEEN THEM!







WILL THE COST OF AMETHYST'S RETURN TO THE GEMWORLD BE
AMY'S LIFE?
IS CITRINA TRULY AT DEATH'S DOOR?
WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS FIRE JADE, AND WHAT DOES SHE PLAN FOR
PRINCE ROARIE AND THE OTHER NOBLES? ACTION, ROMANCE, DANGER,
AND INTRIGUE AWAIT... ONE MONTH FROM NOW IN
AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD #2-- BE HERE!



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Welcome to AMETHYST...and welcome back.

Although this is our first issue, Amethyst and Amy Winston already have a history. As many of you know, the first run of adventures for our Princess of the Gemworld appeared in a DC Comics Maxi-Series in 1983. And she appeared again this past summer in an Annual all her own. As returning readers will remember, and as this issue alludes to, Amy Winston is in fact the child of Lady and Lord Amethyst, who ruled the Gemworld until they were murdered by Dark Opal. Given to the Winstons as a baby, Amy's safe haven on Earth was discovered, and at age thirteen, she learned of her true origin and returned to the world of her birth to defeat the dark lord.

But having rescued her homeworld and secured her legacy, Amethyst rejected the throne that was rightfully hers. Earth had become her home, Herb and Marion Winston her parents, and it was the life of Amy Winston that she chose to live. In the Annual, she was drawn back to the Gemworld, in a story that ended with her apparently trapped on Earth for good. But now she has gone once more to the magic realm, and as in the beginning, she has gone against her will.

This is a new beginning for Amethyst. The ground rules have changed, as have some of the characters. The appearance of Carnelian as Carl is not the only alteration you'll be seeing. And if you thought you knew for certain who Amethyst's friends and foes were, you may just be surprised. As far as other characters are concerned, we'll be delving more deeply into many of them and finding out just what makes them tick. And new players will be coming on the stage, as Fire Jade already has.

It was important to all of us involved that this new series not rehash the past, but expand upon the promise that it raised. Finding new territory was not so easy, however. The Maxi-Series was a pull-out-the-stops, all-eggs-in-one-basket, don't-miss-a-trick enterprise that was intended to show and tell everything about our heroine, her two worlds and the people who surrounded her...and have a definite ending that would tie up all loose ends. That was our commitment to the story and our readers, and even when we learned that the support for AMETHYST has prompted DC to give us this new book, we didn't shrink from that original com-

mitment. AMETHYST ended as it had been meant to from the start.

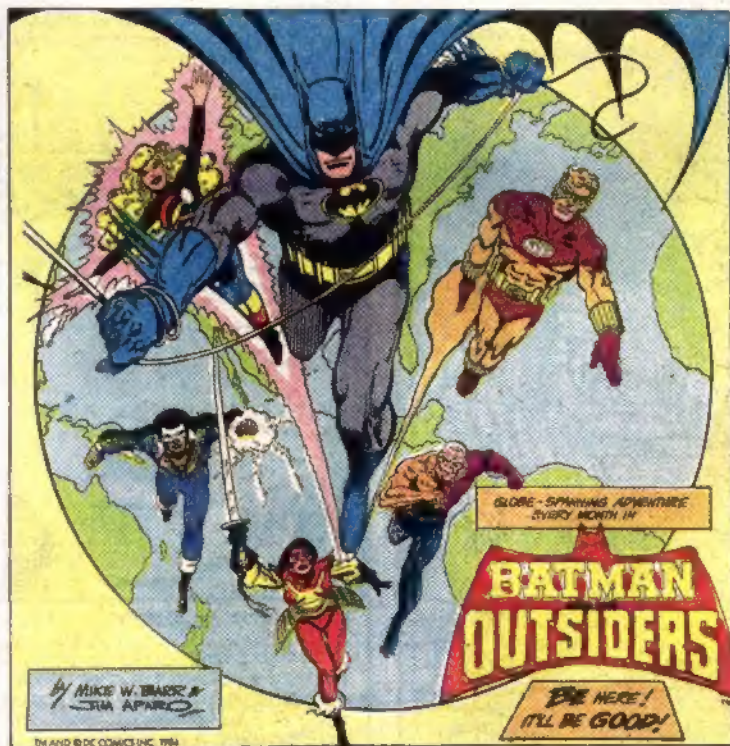
But even in twelve issues, there's a lot that has to be left out. And our biggest disappointment with the Maxi-Series was that after a few issues, events on Earth were forced to take a backseat to the unfolding drama on the Gemworld. Even the rich texture of people and places in that otherdimensional realm had to be given short shrift at times. With this open-ended series, though, there's plenty of room and time to watch events on Earth, to witness Amy's life as well as Amethyst's, and to explore the corners of the Gemworld that haven't yet been seen.

Joining us on the journey this time around is penciller Ric Estrada, whose work in the animation field has kept him out of comics of late, but whose artistry has not lost any of its storytelling magic. It is through Ric's eyes and hand that you'll be seeing the Gemworld, and as this issue testifies, it is a world of

strange and wonderful beauty, and unearthly terrors as well.

What AMETHYST has always been is a fairy tale. And fairy tales, like dreams, have a life and logic all their own. The story of Amethyst would not die...in the minds and hearts of its readers or of its creators. Like the Land of Oz, which appeared in a whole series of books, there is too much to the Gemworld and to Amy/Amethyst than a single tale can tell. That's the reason AMETHYST is back.

It didn't come back as soon as some had hoped, but that's because we wouldn't do it until we could do it right—with a fresh, new storyline that would entertain and stand up to the scrutiny of readers old and new. We think we've done that, and hope that you do too. Whatever your feelings, this page is the place to send them to, and your comments on this issue will be appearing as soon as we start receiving them. Until then...enjoy the magic!



MEANWHILE

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA VS THE AVENGERS THE DEATH OF A DREAM

BY DICK GIORDANO

PART I: TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

If you've read *Marvel Age* #19, Oct., you'll know what this column is about. If you haven't read it, I suggest you try to get a copy and read, in particular, Marvel's version of the events behind the JLA/Avengers team-up controversy.

One dictionary definition holds that truth is: "Conformity to fact or reality." Let's explore the truths revealed, and, more telling, the truths not revealed, in the *Marvel Age* report.

First, I am mildly curious as to why no one is willing to take credit for writing the *Marvel Age* article. It is the only non-Marvel news piece in the magazine that does not carry a byline. You'll notice my byline at the top of this column, so at least you'll know who is responsible for all that is printed here.

I am a bit more curious as to why *Marvel's* writer (whoever he/she was) quoted so liberally from my letter of May 26th to Jim Shooter without including the portion containing an apology and an assessment of the realities of producing this book:

"The motivation for the events was weak. I agreed with you and we set about to fix the plot. When we thought we had it de-bugged, Len called you with an outline of the changes, to which you responded positively, saying you felt the changes would work. Len reported that conversation to me with the request from you that a new written plot be submitted. I thought this request to be logical but largely a formality and ordered George Perez to start drawing before the new plot was typed. In doing so, I had no intention of ignoring your wishes. I understood your conversation with Len to be a tacit approval of our modifications and desired only to keep the project moving. I have since apologized to you for this seeming breach of protocol and

trust that this unintentional mistake is not one of the reasons for your rejection.

Yes, there still remain some questions left unanswered in the plot, but no more or less than are left unanswered in most plots. More often than not, these questions are resolved while the work is in progress, and I'm sure that you'll agree the levels of skill possessed by George Perez, Roy Thomas, Len Wein, and myself are sufficient to resolve these plot "holes" to everyone's satisfaction, and I would surely submit the material in its subsequent more finished stages and welcome your input at that time."

[And at the conclusion of that same letter:] "The storyline makes sense to me and everyone else here and our contract stipulates that 'Marvel and DC shall jointly agree on mutually acceptable modifications,' and I can hardly agree with your modifications if I don't know what they are.

Perhaps we should just put this back in the hands of Mark and Len and George and Roy and trust that these seasoned pros, three of whom have worked well for both companies, won't embarrass themselves or DC and Marvel. Whichever way you choose to go, I respectfully request that you respond as quickly as possible. TIMES-A-WASTIN'!

Warmest Personal Regards,

Dick Giordano

Vice President-Executive Editor"

Little matter that the quotes from that letter, chosen by *Marvel*, did not accurately reflect my intent in writing it; little matter that the first two pages of their story contain numerous inaccuracies and distortions; little matter I am portrayed as having no interest in the quality of the plot rather than as the person who suggested that the best way to quality was to trust a creative team who individually had made commitment to quality in all that they had previously undertaken. Working together, they could do no less. What does matter is that I accepted the responsibility for all the mistakes made up to that time, apologized for them, and urged that we put aside the past and, in a show of

mutual cooperation, move forward, quickly. I hoped that by so doing we could dispel the perceptions, common at the time, that *JLA/AVENGERS* was becoming a political football rather than a long-awaited comic.

Jim Shooter responded with a list of his specific problems with the script. It took him twenty or so days to produce the list ... not a very long time, given the work load of the editor-in-chief of the country's largest comic book publisher. Immediately upon receipt of Jim's list, I forwarded copies of it, all the versions of the plots written to that date, and George Perez's twenty pages of pencils, to Roy Thomas in California. I gave him a week to digest the material (Roy was slated to write only the dialogue and was not directly involved in the plot up until that time), then after several phone calls between Roy and myself to discuss the plot's specific needs and Jim's objections, Roy rewrote the plot. He delivered the completed draft to our offices on July 28th. It took Roy little more than a month to complete and deliver this final (fourth all told!) version of the script. Not a long time, either ... given the circumstances.

This is where the real problem began. The events from this time forward are the basis for the complaints registered by, and here I quote from the *Marvel Age* article, "people connected with the project" in "interviews for various fanzines that give the misimpression that *Marvel* is responsible for deliberately delaying the project." Remember, Roy Thomas was one of those so interviewed and he wasn't directly involved in the project until well after the delays and problems caused by my errors. It is also relevant to note that Roy and all who gave those interviews agreed in print that I committed errors in judgment in the early going. It was the later events that caused their ire, and it is those later events that the *Marvel Age* article ignores or glosses over, and it is those later events that I wish to detail now.

On July 28th, a copy of Roy's plot was hand-delivered to *Marvel*. A second copy was delivered to George Perez during the next week. No word was received from anyone at *Marvel*, not even an acknowledgment of its receipt. Since both companies were planning to attend the San Diego convention in force on August 4th, I paid no particular note to the lack of communication. We were busy getting everything done so we could go to San Diego (and beyond!), and I presumed *Marvel* was too. When we all reached San Diego, I approached Jim and asked if he had read the script. He said he hadn't, but that he had it with him and would try to read it while he was there. I pointed out to him that it would be advantageous if he did so, since we had a rare opportunity during that four-day weekend convention.

To be concluded in next *Meanwhile*... column